

Left, Here's the issue that got lost.

ARENA REPORT

Ran

Volume 1, Number 12

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION
Monday, February 13, 1989
New Haven Coliseum
New Haven, CT

Welcome everyone to another issue of "Arena Report". We'll start off this issue with some shocking news. (Well, not so shocking if you've known me for a while.) I may be moving... again. My wife's company is planning on moving to Orlando in July and they came up with a pretty nice offer. I'd say the move is 50-50 right now. We have to make up our minds by 3/20. If anyone has any info on wrestling down that way, drop me a line. Unreal, I waited two years to get rid of Dusty and now I may be moving into his backyard. Yechhhh. But if we do go, it won't be for awhile and this baby will continue to print even if I do go. Repititious or what.

Since I printed last week I didn't think I'd have much material but lo and behold what was in my mailbox on deadline day. Thanks to everyone for filling up this issue. By the way, pertaining to my response to Harry White's letter: Jammie Ward contacted me about being in charge of subscriptions for the magazine. I told him it was fine as long as he charged for them instead of asking for a first class stamp.

"Arena Report" comes out twice a month and costs 50¢ an issue. There will be a number in the upper left corner of this page notifying you how many issues you have left on your subscription. All renewals, letters, match reports, etc. may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 205 Vernon Ave. #187, Vernon, CT 06066. Our next issue will be from Springfield 3/5. I pulled a solo tonight as no one wanted to whither a mere 45 minute ride to sin city. Ring the bell.

Opening Match

Terry Taylor beat Brooklyn Brawler with a backslide in 8:40. I hate to say this but Terry took Brutus's place in my book as the wrestler who makes me most embarassed to be a fan. He's now sporting a red streak through his hair. And if any of you saw Wrestling Challenge this past weekend, you saw him do a cockle doodle doo on his interview. I know it's not him talking but they've now demeaned this guy way past the point they should have. He also walks around the ring bobbing his head. Terrible. The match stunk too. $\frac{1}{2}$ *

2nd Match

Paul Roma beat Iron Mike Sharpe with a dropkick from the top rope in 10:39. Not much here either. *

3rd Match

King Haku over Jim Powers (sub for Martel) using a good diving headbutt from the middle buckle. They announced Rick was injured. Injury prone or what? Time of the fall was 12:32. *

4th Match

Greg Valentine rolled up Jim Neidhart in 7:01. ZZZZZZZ, nap time. Anvil took off the shin guard and ref Morella took it away. Neidhart turned his back and... surprise, Greg rolled him up for the pin. Dudder than dud.

Main Event: Return Match

Big Boss Man beat Hulk Hogan via dq in 9:09. The Savage-Hogan angle did alot more for the WWF than Vince probably expected. All the cards I heard about this weekend drew big guns. This was no exception. Usually I save the attendance for the notes section but this is important. The coliseum was sold out for the first time in years for wrestling. I was actually stuck in traffic and didn't get into the building until 7:26. Your talking about Mr. Punctuality here. (But I can't play pool.) I'm not ashamed to say that I get goose bumps when Hogan comes out to a full house. It's unreal. A good match too. He did the bit where he handcuffed Slick to the stairs and slapped him around every once in a while. Hogan leveled Bubba and then hit him with two leg bombs but refused to pin him. He then threw the ref down and got the night stick which was the cause for the dq. ***

WWF Women's Title

Rockin Robin retained her belt by pinning Sensational Sherri with a sunset flip from the middle rope. I'm tired of watching these two, sort of like The Conquistadors-Stallions matches. Still decent though. * $\frac{1}{2}$

7th Match

Bad News Brown beat Hercules in 6:31. Baaaad to the bone. BNB is taking horrible bumps. And I don't mean good ones either. Brown hit Herc in the head (no damage) with his chain and pinned him. -*

Tag Team Match

Rougeau Brothers over Bushwhackers in 14:59 when Butch Miller clocked the ref for the dq. All comedy. Rougeaus really stink. *

New Haven Notes

Looks like an NWA show is booked here for 3/11 as I originally thought it was WWF but they announced a card tonight for Hartford 3/19. I'll find out what group has the arena booked tommorrow...Curly Neal made an appearance after intermission as the Globetrotters are in town later this week...Here's the line-up for Hartford 3/19: Hogan-Boss Man in a cage, Brain Busters vs. Rockers, Brawler vs. Rooster with Heenan in Brawler's corner, Bad News vs. Garvin, Conquistadors vs. Stallions, (told you) Hercules and Hennig also announced. Sorry, forgot the reason you should buy your tickets ahead. Lanny Poffo will be reciting a poem on Wrestlemania that night. Big night in Hartford. Sell out tonight was 12, 300.

Ramblings

The Titan-Turner war continues to rage. The latest acquisition for Vince is a non wrestler once again. McMahon has hired away Tony Sciafone from the NWA and it has the brass frantically looking for an announcer for Monday night. While everyone was worrying about Windham or Sting, Vince pulled another coup. Supposedly, McMahon promised Tony that he'd take Vince's spot on "Superstars". Sure... It also looks like Roddy Piper will be in Titan land once again. As a matter of fact, he may show up at Wrestlemania...Danny Spivey

(continued on page 6)

Correspondent Reports

Kansas City Memorial Hall Kansas City, MO
Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

February 2, 1989

1) Bobby Jagers beat Ric McCord in 8:57 with an elbow smash in a fair opener. 2) Tiger Mask pinned Tommy Sharp in 9:21 with a flying splash from the top rope. 3) Dory & Terry Funk upended Gary Young & Doug Sommers in 10:28 when Terry made Young submit to a scorpion hold. The Funks looked real good here. 4) Tenryu beat Wild Bill Irwin in 9:28 with the power bomb. 5) Akio Sato defeated Curtis Hughes (sub for "I don't like K.C." Von Erich) in 8:48 with a karate kick. 6) Rock N' Roll Express went to a 30 minute draw with the British Bulldogs in an exciting bout. 7) Jumbo Tsuruta & Yoshiaki Yatsu won the PWF World Tag Belts by beating Terry Gordy & Stan Hansen in 20:00. A real brawl ending with Jumbo pinning Gordy. Att: 550

Dorton Arena Raleigh, NC
Correspondent: Mike Gunter

February 8, 1989

1) Michael Hayes & Junkyard Dog beat Kendall Windham & Russian Ass #2 when P.S. pinned Victory in 8:32. (D+) 2) Rick Steiner beat Randy Rose in 7:16. (D+) 3) Midnight Express beat The Commandos in 13:20 when Lane pinned Ray Candy after a whack with the racquet. (C-) 4) Butch Reed and Dick Murdoch went to a fifteen minute draw in a match Mike says was worse than anything we saw in Philly. So much for seeing a different Butch Reed. Dud. 5) Varsity Club vs. Animal, Paul Ellering, and Abdullah (Sub for said injured Hawk) Abby and Gary Hart left ringside after three minutes as the Butcher was getting into fights with Animal. So it's three on two before Steiner comes out to even things up. (So much for heel Roadies.) Rick ends up pinning Kevin Sullivan at 19:36. After the pin, Williams and Rotunda push Sullivan around a little. Good skit. (B) 6) Sting & Eddie Gilbert beat Ric Flair & Barry Windham when Sting small packaged Barry at 23:10. After bout, the heels piledrove Sting on a chair. (B*) 7) Michael Hayes won an 18 man bunkhouse where only 15 worked as Eaton and Murdoch had left and Abby was watching from the back. Att: 3,000 Best crowd since Bash in July. No return date announced. (of course)

Wheeling Civic Center Wheeling, WV
Correspondent: John Lanigan

February 10, 1989

1) Curt Hennig beat Blue Blazer in 8:51 with the fisherman suplex in best match of the night. (B) 2) Rockin Robin beat Sensational Sherri with a sunset flip off the 2nd rope in 10:04. (B) 3) Rick Rude beat Tito Santana in 13:50 when Chico tried a sunset flip from the apron but Rude held onto the ropes and sat on top of Tito for the pin. (C) 4) Hercules beat Ted DiBiase via outside interference (actually dq) Virgil was barred from ringside and Ted pinned Herc using the ropes. But Virgil then came out and they double teamed on Herc. Commissioner Rene Goulet came out and reversed the decision dqing DiBiase. Boy, those agents sure have alot of roles. I hope they're paid well. (C-) 5) Demolition defeated Powers of Pain on a dq when Mr. Fuji used the cane. (C+) 6) Greg Valentine beat Jim Neidhart in 7:54. D for dull. 7) Sam Houston pinned Barry Horowitz in 10:22 with a bulldog. (B-) 8) Andre the Giant pinned Jake Roberts in 12:19 with a choke and a pin. (C-) Att: 7,000

February 11, 1989

1) Jim Powers beat Mike Sharpe with a powerslam in 11:18. 2) Koko Ware used a flying dropkick from the second rope to beat Boris Zhukov. 3) John Studd and Akeem went to a double count out in a dud at 8:03. 4) Bad News Brown used the ghetto blaster on Pete Doherty (sub for Rick Martel) in 4:54. 5) Rougeau Brothers beat Bushwhackers via dq when the Bushes threw ref Morella down. Whackers are really over especially with the Bravo fans. 6) Ron Bass pinned Paul Roma after a face first piledriver in 8:49. 7) Rick Rude pinned Tito Santana in 16:42 with the same finish as Wheeling. 8) Randy Savage beat Ultimate Warrior on a count out in a match where both belts were at stake. If you don't think Wrestlemania will do great guns, your wrong. The sold out crowd was solidly behind Warrior with pro Hulk signs all over the place. End came as Rude made an appearance to distract Dingbat and after the count out, Ravishing Rick and Savage embraced. Att: 15,200 (SRO)

Letters To The Editor

NWA in Philly

The NWA Philly show we saw was not only the worst Philly card since they came into the Civic Center, (including the infamous no show card of two months ago) it was even worse than any of the shows that Crockett killed New York with last year. NWA fans in Philadelphia show up to see action packed cards and they have no interest in the JYD clown type garbage. Neither the Midnight Express or The Fantastics were on the card to save it as they have done in the past, while Flair and Windham were good but not their usual superb selves.

Every time it seems the NWA is about to take off, they start to stumble. If they have decided to de-emphasize action in favor of bad comedy as the last three Philly cards might indicate, they will lose their crowd there completely.

Gary Fishman
Kew Gardens, NY

RL- I have to agree. And it looks like I opened my mouth too soon. (See my letter in the 2/13 edition of the Observer.)

Harry White Speaks

Well I no longer have any valid excuse to not get your "Arena Reports". One of my objections before was the amount of boredom in the WWF cards. I can hardly use that any more after the first half of the NWA Philly card. Another excuse was that all the cards are the same and I did not want you to ruin the suspense of the shows in St. Louis. While the cards are the same, your writing styles and descriptions are certainly different. Speaking of different writing styles, I can almost hear the gears in Steve Sims' head turning to come up with a "Writers Rumble" to compare the sheets.

In the Marriot, I wish you had told Jack Victory what you were thinking when he asked about the sheets. Also, I wish Tommy Young would have told you what he was thinking when Commish Lanigan told him there was a good looking hockey fan in the crowd.

I thought Butch Reed was going to be a monster heel. That was hardly a fear and awe inspiring performance in Philly.

Instead of the Liberty Bell next time, we should tour "The Pennsylvania Amish Museum of Progress". Maybe that will be more exciting than the bell.

Harry White
St. Louis

RL- For those of you who don't know Harry White. He's the senior member of the All-Night Video Party Gang. The J.J. Dillon if you weiiiil. He's also recently been made timekeeper at the ST. Lou NWA shows. Gee, we could start our own Federation. We have a commisioner John Lanigan, a timekeeper, we could have a booking committee of Dave Meltzer, Wade Keller, and Lance Levine. Jon Gallagher and Steve Sims could put out our magazine. Scott Dickinson could be the ref. Steve Beverly could be in charge of syndication. Dan Reilly could get all the fanzines (since he does any way) to keep us up on what the fans like. And I'll be your ring announcer. Now if we could only find some wrestlers. Well, the two guys from Canada, Jeff Zinger and Greg Scatton throw some mean flying body presses. They could be known as the Travis Brothers. (Hey guys, how old were those girls in Dennys, really now.)

Mr. Butcher

I recently came to the realization that most "smart" fans don't appreciate one of my favorites, Abdullah the Butcher. I often hear that he is out of shape, possesses minimal wrestling knowledge, and that his brand of bloody violence is outdated. My feelings on this subject are quite different.

Wrestling is theatre and Abdullah is both exciting and entertaining. On the recent 2/4 Philly card there were many, many grapplers with much greater natural ability (Steve Williams & Mike Rotunda quickly come to mind), but they drew minimal heat and their work that evening was mediocre at best. Abdullah's destruction that night of Bob Bradley may not even be considered a wrestling match, but it was wild and action packed. When they fought on their way back to the dressing room the place popped.

Despite his limitations, Abdullah always gives 110% and now that Brody is gone he is the number one brawler in the business. I know exactly what to expect from an Abby match; 7-10 minutes of fury and pandamonium. Considering that so many "better" wrestlers won't "put out" in front of small crowds (the 2/4 NWA Philly show is again a perfect example), I'd almost always rather see The Butcher.

I would also briefly like to mention two other details. I have seen literally thousands of live matches and can not name more than 2 or 3 that I enjoyed more than Abdullah vs. Brody. It was not scientific or pretty but it was GREAT. He is also most gracious to his fans, autographing everything that is put in front of him (considering his bread and butter is his crazed, bloodthirst heel persona, it is just another point in his favor). I truly do appreciate Ric Flair, Barry Windham, and all the brilliant wrestlers in the business but also believe that Abdullah's not getting the respect he's earned. The man is one of the few legitamate legends remaining today.

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

WWF Main Event

Jesse looks horrible without his moustache...his commentary seemed very toned down...Hulk Hogan must be the worst actor alive...I have a gut feeling his movie will bomb (get it-bomb-leg bomb- ha ha)...Boss Man and Slick are okay, but Akeem is absolutly pathetic - wrestling and dancing...as far as the match went, I gave it a C-, but the heat was an "A"...The angle could have been executed better, but for live t.v., it was okay...The camera work in the first aid and dressing room area lended some authenticity to the angle...Was Liz supposed to be dead or something? Hogan kept saying, "Please Elizabeth, breathe, breathe, oh my God...and while she was unconcious and not breathing, the

doctor did nothing...Randy was excellant, his scene with Hulk was realistic, exciting, and filled with tension...Until this moment, I never realized how much I had missed Randy as a heel...All this should set the stage for an exciting WM V (has it really been that many?)

Chris Shinn
Wethersfield, CT

RL-First off Chris, I bet you don't use the same book that Arsenio Hall gets his material from. Good observation though. It looks like McMahon is in for a very profitable next few months.

(continued from page 2)

has been added to the Varsity Club. (And they won't bring in Pillman or Pritchard.) This will reunite The Boredom Express although Rotunda is alot better now. Kevin Sullivan will be out of the club, something about not doing his chores in the dubhouse... On "Entertainment Tonight" which I missed, Dave Meltzer was on talking about what McMahon said in the New York Daily News. Apparently, Vince admitted that the matches were pre-determined. Way to expose the business guy... Blackjack Mulligan will not be back as agent for George Scott... Cowboy Bill Watts's name is being bandied about by everyone in the organization as taking Scott's place. It better happen very soon. King George has stated that there will be no high spots during the first three matches on a card and no outside brawling till the last three. He says he's going to reeducate the fans on wrestling. I think Ric Flair should slap on the figure four and take Scott to school and reeducate his legs... As of 2/13 Vince had an advance of 12,000 for his 2/18 Chicago show while Turner had 6,000 which was a quick pick up from 500 about 10 days ago.

Final Word

Hope everyone enjoyed this issue. Thanks to everyone who contributed. My next report will be from Springfield 3/5. Update on that NWA New Haven show. Someone doesn't know what's going on. Tickettron swears there's a show in New Haven that night but the Coliseum says the next date is Vince on May 18. Maybe we'll see some promos this weekend on "Catch the Pinfalls". How about catching the Zzzzzzz's.

See ya till next time,

Ron